

Amendments to the Claims:

1-57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
- (e) (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

59. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
- (e) (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

60. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
- (e) (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,
wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

61. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~
- (e) (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,
wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

62. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~

~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

63. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~

~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

64. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523.

65. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523)~~ of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide.

66. (canceled)

67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

69. (currently amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 58 or 71 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

70. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 69, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

71. (new) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

72. (new) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 71 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

73. (new) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 71 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or

- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.
74. (new) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 71 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.
75. (new) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 71 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.